

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 7</b>
<b>9 SEPTEMBER 2013</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Solicitor to the Council

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### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP FOR IMPROVING THE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PETERBOROUGH**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider and agree the Terms of Reference and membership of a Task and Finish Group. The proposal to established the group results from a discussion at the Group Representative planning meeting to undertake further scrutiny and review of the education service within Childrens Services during the period of significant change in the role of the Local Authority in Education.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee approves:
1. The Terms of Reference for the task and finish group
  2. The membership of the Task and Finish Group pending further nominations from group leaders.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Since 2012, an informal task and finish group has been working with officers around improving the committees understanding of Education performance and supporting the authority with the changes it is proposing in light of the changing role of local authorities in supporting education. To increase accountability around education, it is proposed to formalising this group into a task finish group.

#### **3.2 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Following discussion at a group reps meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, it was proposed to set up a task / finish group to cover the following areas -

##### **Terms Of Reference**

It is proposed the task and finish group considers the following areas -

- Review and challenge school performance including exam results, Ofsted reports, demographic/socio-economic data, governance and local authority own view on schools in line with the School Improvement Strategy.
- Monitoring of the performance of pupils with pupil premium funding (in receipt of free school meals).
- Consulting upon key changes to education prior to sharing at the full scrutiny committee.

### 3.3 MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

The current membership of the informal working group is -

Councillor Day  
Councillor Fower  
Councillor Shearman  
Councillor Saltmarsh  
Alistair Kingsley

It is suggested this group will form the basis of the task and finish group given their knowledge and experience that has already been developed in the meetings to date. In addition, the Senior Governance Officer will write to all Group Secretaries to request for further nominations for membership.

Officer membership will vary in line with changes in the focus and topic of the committee. It is proposed the group meets on a termly basis. The task and finish group may consider information to form part of the submitted reports to the full committee. A full list of dates for meetings will be developed once agreement on the committee is reached.

### 4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 If the Terms of Reference and membership of the Task and Finish Group are agreed by the Committee then the Task and Finish Group will proceed for an initial period of 12 months reporting back to the committee in March 2014 and September 2014 with an overview of the work it has undertaken to date.

### 5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 5.1 None